

RECEIVED

00 JUL 10 PM 2:28

MAYOR AND COUNCIL
OF NEW CASTLE

**MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF NEW CASTLE
REGULAR MONTHLY COUNCIL MEETING
MASONIC HALL – 1406 WILMINGTON ROAD – NEW CASTLE
TUESDAY – JUNE 13, 2000 – 7:00 P.M.**

ROLL CALL:

PRESENT

Councilman DiAngelo
Councilman Marinelli
President Blest

Councilman Davis
Councilman Reese

Also, present Mayor Houben, Mr. Robert Martin, City Administrator, Herb Swanson, Housing Enforcement Official, Rick Harrison, Director of Public Works, Mr. Jeff Bergstrom, Building Official, Chief Kevin McDerby, New Castle Police Department, Ms. Marion Delaney, Director of Finance and Human Resources and attached list of audience.

APPROVAL OF COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Mr. Swanson read Health and Housing Report	-	May 2000
Mr. Bergstrom read the Building Official's Report	-	May 2000
Chief McDerby gave the Police Department Report	-	May 2000
Mr. Harrison read the Public Work's Report	-	May 2000
Ms. Delaney read the Finance and Human Resources Report	-	May 2000

Mr. Resse made a motion that all committee reports be accepted as read. Mr. Marinelli seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

Ms. Delaney, Director of Finance read the treasurer's report for Ms. Janet Carlin, Treasurer who was absent.

Mr. Marinelli made a motion to accept the treasurer's report as read. Mr. Reese seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES BY DATE:

President Blest asked if all of council read the minutes and if anyone had any questions or changes. Mr. Reese made a motion to accept the minutes for May 2000 meeting. Mr. DiAngelo seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

PAGE 2

COMMUNICATIONS:

1. President Blest read a letter from Ned and Sara Hutchinson requesting a moratorium on all new building until the zoning ordinances are reviewed and updated with the help of a professional qualified urban planner.
2. President Blest read a letter he received from Teresa Lynch, who represents the Main Street Project regarding changes in the city's zoning ordinances.
3. President Blest read a letter from James Goode, Chairman of the Antique Show asking for council's approval to use Battery Park for the antique show on August 27, 2000. All of council agreed that the antique show could be held on the park for that date. Council wants a hold harmless signed.
4. President Blest read a letter from Charles Cobb also asking for a moratorium on building in the downtown area of the city until zoning changes can be made.
5. Councilman Marinelli read a letter from Brian Whittaker complaining about the inadequacy of service stations for handicapped individuals. Mr. Marinelli stated there are no service stations within the city limits and he should contact the state.

BUSINESS FROM THE FLOOR:

1. George Burns asked what are the zoning issues going on now. President Blest stated our zoning ordinances have not been revamped in many years and he felt it would be a benefit to hire a professional to look at some of our zoning issues
2. Rich Mendelson from Delaware Street felt it was a good idea to get professional help.

BUSINESS FROM THE MAYOR:

1. Mayor Houben stated he had talked to Lt. Governor Ruth Ann Minner on Separation Day about the disrepair of our courthouse. Mayor Houben and Councilman DiAngelo had a meeting at the courthouse and money is being allotted to start work on the courthouse in 2001.
2. The Mayor stated he received nothing but praise on the city's Separation Day event.
3. Mayor Houben stated he received a call on Friday stating that New Castle City will now have their water fluoridated.
4. Mayor Houben stated in next months electric bills would be a notice asking for volunteers for New Castle's 350th birthday celebration.

PAGE 3

BUSINESS FROM COUNCIL PRESIDENT:

1. President Blest stated the Trustees have notified the city that they can start using Town Hall for council meeting beginning in September.

BUSINESS FROM THE CITY ADMINISTRATOR:

Mr. Martin announced there will be public workshop with Del Dot on June 21st at Carrie Downie School from 5 to 7 P.M. regarding the enhancement paving of the ferry cut-off. Mr. Martin then read several pieces of correspondence that would be of interest to the residents of New Castle.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

1. **3RD and final reading of Ordinance No. 394 Increasing Income Limits on the Over 65 and Disability Tax Exemptions.** President Blest read the ordinance by title only. Mr. Davis made a motion to accept the motion as read. Mr. DiAngelo seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.
2. **Resolution No. 2000-10 re-naming 6th Street Extension to Glebe Lane.** President Blest stated there are several things council need to do before passing this resolution. One of the things is to contact the Planning Commission. President Blest asked that this agenda item be tabled at this time.
3. **Up-date on Bull Hill Boat Yard Lease.** Mr. Kavanagh gave of copy of the lease that he had prepared for the city to Mr. Don Mischler, treasurer of the boat yard club. Mr. Mischler will have the boat yard's attorney review the lease and return it to the city. Mr. Kavanagh stated council needs a resolution on next month's agenda authorizing council's president to enter into the lease agreement.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. **Resolution in honor of Warren F. "Sam" Beasley.** President Blest read the resolution honoring "Sam" for all of his community service and life accomplishments. Copies of this resolution will be sent to his family. Mr. Reese made a motion that the resolution be accepted as read. Mr. Davis seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.
2. **Finalization of Contract #98-1, Witco Building Renovations – "Trolley Barn."** Mr. Reese explained that the contract for renovations will now be finalized with the bonding company. The contractors did not fulfill their contract and the bonding company has paid for the subcontractors to complete the renovations.

- 3. Discussion of reviewing and possible updating of the city's current Zoning Code by an outside professional.** President Blest felt it was time we had a professional planner review our zoning laws. Mr. Reese and Mr. Davis stated he was in favor of an outside professional to help update our zoning ordinances. Mr. Reese made a motion to have the city solicitor look into the possibility of a moratorium on building and for council to look into the hiring of a professional planner. Mr. Davis seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.
- 4. Introduction of Summer Recreation Program and Manager.** Mr. Reese introduced to council and the audience the new Parks and Recreation Director for the summer program, Ms. Julie Harmer. Mr. Reese stated the summer program would begin on July 3, 2000. Ms. Harmer then talked about the summer program in detail and stated they were hiring 14 counselors. Mr. Reese also announced the Wharf Dance would be held on September 9th with a rain date of September 16th.
- 5. Discussion of Tall Ships Event of June 24th.** Mr. Martin stated that the Tall Ships will be passing through New Castle on June 23rd between the hours of 1 and 3 p.m. There will be a band on the park and booths selling souvenirs. Chief McDerby is aware of the influx of visitors in the city and the traffic and parking problems. Council received a letter requesting permission for the band and booths. All of council agreed to allow both.
- 6. Discussion on the problem of heavy traffic on East 3rd and East 6th Streets on Friday evenings.** Chief McDerby did a survey on East 3rd and East 6th Streets and there were around 500 vehicles in a 2-hour period. Out of the 500 cars only 20 vehicles were speeding. Chief McDerby stated that it is a traffic problem and not a police problem. Council suggested having a police officer help direct traffic on Friday evenings. Chief McDerby is going to take the suggestions and see what can be done to help traffic flow better through the city.
- 7. Bank Resolution in amount of \$34,152.01 to pay Cecil Construction Corp. for Contract number 2000-01, "Buttonwood Avenue Rebuild", estimate #2 – period ending May 31, 2000.** Mr. Davis did not read the resolution in its entirety. He explained to council and the audience what the payment entailed. Mr. Reese made a motion to accept the resolution as read. Mr. Marinelli seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.
- 8. Bank Resolution in amount of \$57,272.00 to pay Commonwealth Insurance Company for contract number 98-1, "Renovations to Witco Building – Phase 2" – final payment.** Mr. Davis explained the resolution and what the payment entailed. Mr. Davis made a motion to accept the resolution as read. Mr. Reese seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

PAGE 5

9. **Request for Vendors from Peter Octavio, Jr.** Council felt there were a lot of unanswered questions regarding this request. Council tabled this item until their questions could be answered.
10. **Comments from the floor:**
 1. Chris Robinson from Boothhurst had a question about when the roads would be done in his development.

President Blest then entertained a motion to adjourn the public meeting and enter into executive session. Mr. Marinelli seconded the motion. Meeting adjourned.

Executive Session Minutes as dictated by Mr. Martin, City Administrator:

The Mayor and Council convened into executive session at 9:10 P.M. to discuss with the City Solicitor Gerald Kavanaugh, potential litigation concerning a former employee Andy Rees. Mr. Kavanaugh advised the council that Mr. Rees had filed an employment discrimination suit in the Federal District Court and what the city's options were.

After much discussion Councilperson Davis made a motion to return to open session at 9:30 P.M. Councilperson Marinelli seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Returning to open session Councilperson Marinelli made a motion to authorize the city solicitor to pay the \$2,500 deductible under the Mayor and Council of New Castle Police Officials liability policy. Councilperson Davis seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously. Being no further business Councilperson Reese made a motion to adjourn at 9:40 P.M. Councilperson DiAngelo seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously. Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia Fuller
City Clerk